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Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ), Chairman
Neil Bradley, Executive Director
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



(202) 226-9717

Legislative Bulletin.....March 20, 2001

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H.Res. 67—Recognizing the Importance of Combating Tuberculosis on a Worldwide Basis, and Acknowledging the Severe Impact that TB has on Minority Populations in the United States. (Reyes)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, March 20.

Summary: The resolution calls for a congressional and presidential recognition of the importance of efforts to control tuberculosis (TB) in the United States and worldwide. The resolution states that between ten and fifteen million (disproportionately minority) people carry the TB bacteria in the U.S. and that the disease is "preventable and treatable." The main way to control the disease, which the resolution states is an "unavoidable byproduct of increased international travel, commerce, and migration," is to help control TB in developing countries around the world.

Though no specific figure is given, the resolution calls for "~~substantially~~ increasing" the amount of money earmarked for international TB control in the U.S. foreign aid budget for fiscal year 2002.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although there is no authorization or appropriation of funds, this resolution calls for "~~substantially~~ increasing" the portion of the foreign aid budget devoted to international TB control. Last year's Foreign Operations Appropriations bill provided \$60 million to address TB, three-times the amount provided in the previous fiscal year. Current law authorizes up to \$60 million to fight TB for Fiscal Year 2002.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Paul Teller, x6-9718, paul.teller@mail.house.gov

H.Con.Res. 41 —El Salvador Earthquakes (Davis, Tom)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, March 20.

Summary: In addition to offering our sympathy for the victims of the El Salvador earthquakes in January and February, this resolution states that the Congress:

- expresses support for continuing *and substantially increasing*, in connection with these earthquakes, relief and reconstruction assistance provided by relief agencies and the international community, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank¹, and the United States Agency for International Development² (emphasis added);
- urges the President to encourage such entities to expedite such assistance; and
- encourages assistance by other nations and organizations to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador and to assist them in rebuilding their homes and lives.

¹The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced on February 13 the approval of a \$20 million emergency loan for El Salvador. According to the IDB, \$1.3 billion in aid already has been pledged by various countries in support of reconstruction efforts.

Cost to Taxpayers: While the resolution does not authorize funding, it does call on Congress to "substantially increas[e]" funding, which currently totals \$14,508,970 for FY2001.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is unavailable.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules: No.

²Current U.S. Disaster Assistance to El Salvador

(OFDA = Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance; FFP = USAID's Office of Food for Peace)

US Agency	Action	Funding
USAID/OFDA	Disaster Assistance Authority for local purchase of relief supplies	\$25,000
USAID/OFDA	4,020 rolls of plastic sheeting	\$1,195,871
USAID/OFDA	Local purchase of relief supplies	\$530,000
USAID/OFDA	Shelter grants to CHF, CARE, PCI, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, and Lutheran World Federation	\$2,688,000
USAID/OFDA	Fundcite for USAID/San Salvador recovery efforts	\$3,000,000

Subtotal	USAID/OFDA Assistance for February 13 Earthquake	\$7,438,871
USAID/FFP	1,750 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Food Commodities	\$917,700
Subtotal	USAID/BHR Assistance for <u>February 13 Earthquake</u>	\$8,356,571
USAID/OFDA	Total Assistance for <u>January 13 Earthquake</u>	\$6,152,399
TOTAL	USAID/BHR Assistance for <u>January 13 and February 13 Earthquakes</u>	\$14,508,970

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*El Salvador - Earthquake II, Fact Sheet #8 (FY 2001), March 2, 2001,
http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/elsalveq2_fs8_fy01.html*

Other Information: Recent news reports indicate that the U.S.-funded United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is sending reproductive health kits to El Salvador. Despite the fact that El Salvador's constitution officially recognizes that life begins at conception, the UNFPA kits include the morning-after pill and other types of reproductive devices that may prevent a conceived child from implanting in her mother's womb. Members may want some guarantee that U.S. funding priorities for future assistance should be for basic supplies such as food and water and NOT for population control.

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney x6-9719

The views expressed in Legislative Bulletin may not reflect the views of all Members of the Republican Study Committee.